



For Release: Tuesday, October 08, 2019

19-1532-CHI

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County Employment and Wages in Indiana — First Quarter 2019

Employment rose in 7 of the 8 large counties in Indiana from March 2018 to March 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2018.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that Tippecanoe County had the largest increase, up 2.2 percent, followed by the counties of Hamilton (2.0 percent) and Allen (1.6 percent). (See [table 1](#).)

Nationally, employment advanced 1.4 percent from March 2018 to March 2019, as 298 of the 355 largest U.S. counties registered increases. Midland, TX, had the largest percentage increase in employment, up 5.8 percent over the year. Bay, FL, had the largest decrease with a loss of 5.9 percent.

Among the largest counties in Indiana, employment was highest in Marion County (600,200) in March 2019, followed by Allen County (188,700) and Lake County (186,600). Together, the eight largest Indiana counties accounted for 51.4 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 355 largest counties made up 73.5 percent of total U.S. employment, which stood at 146.5 million in March 2019.

Average weekly wages increased in 7 of the 8 large counties in Indiana from the first quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2019. Vanderburgh County had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages, up 8.2 percent, followed by Lake County at 2.7 percent. (See [table 1](#).) Marion County recorded the highest average weekly wage among the state's large counties at \$1,232, followed by Hamilton County at \$1,132. Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.8 percent over the year to \$1,184 in the first quarter of 2019.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 84 counties in Indiana with employment levels below 75,000. Average weekly wages in these counties ranged from \$1,266 to \$507. (See [table 2](#).)

Large county wage changes

In the first quarter of 2019, Vanderburgh County (8.2 percent) had the highest wage gain among the state's large counties and ranked third among the 355 largest counties nationwide. In contrast Elkhart County had an over-the-year wage decline of 7.6 percent and ranked 355th among the 355 largest U.S. counties. Average weekly wages for the nation increased 2.8 percent over the year.

Nationally, 325 of the 355 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage gain at 10.2 percent, followed by Bay, FL (9.3 percent).

Of the 355 largest U.S. counties, 28 experienced an over-the-year decrease in average weekly wages. Elkhart, IN, had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages (-7.6 percent), followed by Olmsted, MN (-5.1 percent).

Large county average weekly wages

Marion County's average weekly wage of \$1,232 was the highest among the state's large counties and ranked 76th among the 355 largest U.S. counties. Hamilton County (\$1,132, 114th) was the only other large county in Indiana to report an average weekly wage above \$1,000. St. Joseph (\$868) reported the lowest average weekly wage among the state's large counties and ranked 308th nationwide.

Nationwide, average weekly wages were above the U.S. average (\$1,184) in 92 of the 355 large counties in the first quarter of 2019. New York, NY, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,153, followed by San Francisco, CA (\$2,759), and Santa Clara, CA (\$2,758).

Among the largest U.S. counties, 263 had average weekly wages below the national average in the first quarter of 2019. Cameron, TX, reported the lowest wage (\$648), followed by Horry County, S.C. (\$652), and Hidalgo, TX (\$662).

Average weekly wages in Indiana's smaller counties

Among the 84 counties in Indiana—those with 2018 employment below 75,000—3 counties had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,184: Bartholomew (\$1,266), Martin (\$1,263), and Posey (\$1,197). Brown County reported the lowest average weekly wage in the state, averaging \$507 in the first quarter of 2019. (See [table 2](#).)

When all 92 counties in Indiana were considered, all but 4 had wages below the national average. Four reported average weekly wages less than \$600, 15 had wages from \$600 to \$699, 35 reported wages from \$700 to \$799, 17 reported wages from \$800 to \$899, and 21 had wages of \$900 or higher. (See [chart 1](#).)

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2018 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2019 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/2018/home.htm.

The County Employment and Wages release for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The County Employment and Wages full data update for second quarter 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 4, 2019.

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. 13, the number of weeks in a quarter, then divide the result. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 8 largest counties in Indiana, first quarter 2019

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2018-19 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, first quarter 2018-19 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	146,497.6	1.4	--	\$1,184	--	2.8	--
Indiana.....	3,059.1	1.2	--	963	33	0.9	48
Allen, Ind.	188.7	1.6	118	941	251	1.1	288
Elkhart, Ind.	135.0	-1.8	350	930	261	-7.6	355
Hamilton, Ind.	142.2	2.0	85	1,132	114	0.1	324
Lake, Ind.	186.6	0.3	263	946	241	2.7	161
Marion, Ind.	600.2	1.0	184	1,232	76	1.5	262
St. Joseph, Ind.	124.0	1.4	138	868	308	0.8	303
Tiptecanoe, Ind.	86.8	2.2	69	960	223	0.4	315
Vanderburgh, Ind.	109.7	0.9	201	962	220	8.2	3

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Indiana, first quarter 2019

Area	Employment March 2019	Average weekly wage(1)
United States(2)	146,497,599	\$1,184
Indiana.....	3,059,080	963
Adams	14,063	730
Allen	188,734	941
Bartholomew	50,784	1,266
Benton	2,362	747
Blackford	3,088	678
Boone	30,104	825
Brown	2,843	507
Carroll	5,390	694
Cass	14,588	703
Clark	53,627	814
Clay	7,758	668
Clinton	11,055	779
Crawford	1,838	623
Daviess.....	12,300	690
Dearborn	14,493	738
Decatur.....	14,284	883
De Kalb.....	22,195	977
Delaware	45,262	792
Dubois	28,869	806
Elkhart	135,043	930
Fayette	6,341	681
Floyd.....	30,999	809
Fountain	4,785	687
Franklin.....	4,359	617
Fulton	6,273	701
Gibson	20,900	942
Grant	26,904	788
Greene	6,471	666
Hamilton	142,168	1,132
Hancock	25,579	934
Harrison.....	10,331	711
Hendricks	72,659	751
Henry	13,233	688
Howard	38,724	1,005
Huntington	13,487	746
Jackson	21,836	909
Jasper.....	11,592	773
Jay.....	7,267	708
Jefferson.....	12,492	778
Jennings	7,447	732
Johnson.....	55,341	762
Knox	17,356	758
Kosciusko	39,155	1,041
La Porte	39,970	783
Lagrange	14,111	763
Lake.....	186,571	946
Lawrence	14,121	784
Madison.....	39,702	752
Marion	600,220	1,232
Marshall.....	18,355	738
Martin	7,567	1,263
Miami	9,411	704
Monroe	63,589	918
Montgomery	15,115	886
Morgan	15,583	712

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Indiana, first quarter 2019 - Continued

Area	Employment March 2019	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Newton	3,240	750
Noble	18,634	781
Ohio	1,327	559
Orange	7,633	646
Owen	5,046	825
Parke	3,100	613
Perry	6,523	754
Pike	2,727	936
Porter	61,519	859
Posey	8,767	1,197
Pulaski	4,925	868
Putnam	13,890	699
Randolph	6,489	714
Ripley	12,717	803
Rush	5,043	745
St. Joseph	124,019	868
Scott	8,225	725
Shelby	18,228	852
Spencer	6,397	887
Starke	4,159	609
Steuben	16,100	700
Sullivan	5,823	847
Switzerland	2,109	589
Tippecanoe	86,760	960
Tipton	5,463	901
Union	1,344	567
Vanderburgh	109,715	962
Vermillion	4,190	1,067
Vigo	47,786	811
Wabash	12,255	739
Warren	1,866	832
Warrick	17,559	933
Washington	6,236	664
Wayne	30,278	764
Wells	10,799	746
White	9,107	724
Whitley	13,081	858

Footnotes

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, first quarter 2019

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	March 2019 (thousands)	Percent change, March 2018-19	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, first quarter 2018-19	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	146,497.6	1.4	\$1,184	--	2.8	--
Alabama	1,978.0	1.6	944	38	2.5	32
Alaska	312.4	0.3	1,108	18	3.3	9
Arizona	2,895.1	2.5	1,056	22	3.0	21
Arkansas	1,218.5	0.7	896	45	2.2	38
California	17,436.4	1.8	1,401	5	3.8	4
Colorado	2,690.3	1.9	1,231	9	4.8	2
Connecticut	1,650.6	0.0	1,487	4	2.3	34
Delaware	444.1	1.3	1,199	13	-0.1	51
District of Columbia	773.5	0.5	1,921	1	0.2	49
Florida	8,894.3	2.1	1,015	26	2.7	25
Georgia	4,488.6	2.1	1,121	17	2.6	28
Hawaii	658.1	-0.4	1,006	27	3.4	8
Idaho	732.3	2.7	828	50	2.3	34
Illinois	5,912.0	0.1	1,275	8	2.7	25
Indiana	3,059.1	1.2	963	33	0.9	48
Iowa	1,527.1	0.1	942	39	2.3	34
Kansas	1,379.3	0.6	940	40	3.2	12
Kentucky	1,882.6	0.6	920	41	2.2	38
Louisiana	1,916.8	-0.1	954	34	2.5	32
Maine	599.8	1.2	919	42	3.1	16
Maryland	2,670.3	0.9	1,228	10	1.7	45
Massachusetts	3,558.1	1.1	1,561	3	3.5	7
Michigan	4,307.4	0.6	1,078	20	0.1	50
Minnesota	2,840.8	0.5	1,203	12	2.3	34
Mississippi	1,129.8	0.4	779	51	1.8	43
Missouri	2,788.4	0.5	986	31	2.6	28
Montana	458.8	0.9	844	49	3.1	16
Nebraska	965.6	0.1	917	43	2.2	38
Nevada	1,392.2	3.0	992	29	1.5	47
New Hampshire	656.2	1.2	1,156	15	3.1	16
New Jersey	4,040.2	1.3	1,399	6	1.7	45
New Mexico	825.4	1.3	890	47	3.2	12
New York	9,453.5	1.5	1,639	2	2.6	28
North Carolina	4,458.5	2.0	1,054	23	3.2	12
North Dakota	414.3	1.5	1,021	25	3.3	9
Ohio	5,363.2	0.7	1,035	24	3.0	21
Oklahoma	1,617.0	1.1	953	35	4.3	3
Oregon	1,921.9	1.3	1,060	21	3.3	9
Pennsylvania	5,850.3	1.1	1,146	16	2.8	24
Rhode Island	474.7	0.8	1,104	19	1.8	43
South Carolina	2,110.0	2.0	901	44	3.0	21
South Dakota	419.0	0.4	865	48	2.7	25
Tennessee	3,004.2	2.0	996	28	1.9	42
Texas	12,455.6	2.2	1,204	11	3.1	16
Utah	1,501.4	3.0	978	32	3.1	16
Vermont	309.1	0.4	950	36	3.7	5
Virginia	3,896.9	1.2	1,186	14	2.1	41
Washington	3,371.1	1.8	1,368	7	4.9	1
West Virginia	687.1	0.3	896	45	3.2	12
Wisconsin	2,838.9	0.1	992	29	2.6	28
Wyoming	269.0	1.9	948	37	3.7	5
Puerto Rico	875.8	2.2	553	(3)	-2.1	(3)
Virgin Islands	36.6	9.6	966	(3)	-1.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Indiana, first quarter 2019

